

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONROV 01310 231343Z

45

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EUR-12 AID-05 PC-01 /083 W

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R 231308Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9106

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 1310

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LI, GV, AO

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT TOLBERT VISITS GUINEA

REF: MONROVIA 1182

1. PRESIDENT TOLBERT PAID A ONE-DAY VISIT TO CONAKRY ON FEBRUARY 18. THE VISIT APPARENTLY LAID ON SUDDENLY AS IT WAS NOT ANNOUNCED LOCALLY UNTIL THE MORNING OF DEPARTURE. ALSO, TOLBERT CANCELLED AT LAST MINUTE LONG-STANDING ENGAGEMENT WITH THIS EMBASSY THAT WAS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON THE 18TH.

2. VISIT HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE IN LOCAL PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION. NEVERTHELESS, LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE OF VISIT HAS BEEN REVEALED PUBLICLY. PURPOSE OF VISIT HAS BEEN STATED AS QTE ONE OF USUAL TRIPS HE (TOLBERT) MAKES TO LIBERIA'S NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES TO CONFER WITH HIS BROTHERS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN AND COMMON OBJECTIVES UNQTE. ACCORDING TO GOL PRESS RELEASE TOLBERT AND TOURE HAD A 2-1/2 HOUR MEETING FOLLOWING PUBLIC RECEPTION CEREMONIES.

3. UPON HIS RETURN TO MONROVIA, TOLBERT CHARACTERIZED HIS DIS-
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PAGE 02 MONROV 01310 231343Z

CUSSIONS WITH TOURE AS QTE INFORMATIVE, REWARDING AND ENLGTENING

UNQTE. HE SAID THEY HAD DISCUSSED QTE MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTERESTS (SIC), INCLUDING BILATERAL RELATIONS, PROBLEMS OF AFRICA, PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE WORLD UNQTE. TOLBERT LAUDED THE QTE GREEN REVOLU-

TION UNQTE IN GUINEA AND ATTRIBUTED IT TO THE FULL INVOLVEMENT OF GUINEAN YOUTH. HE ALSO CALLED UPON THE QTE BIG POWERS AND THOSE CONCERNED WITH COLONIALISM TO DO ALL THEY CAN TO AVOID THE UNDESIRABLE SITUATION BREWING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA UNQTE.

4. COMMENT: APPARENTLY THIS WAS A FENCE-MENDING EXERCISE. TOLBERT HAD AT LEAST TWICE REJECTED TOURE OVERTURES TO RECOGNIZE THE MPLA PRIOR TO THE JANUARY OAU SUMMIT. HAVING FINALLY DECIDED TO RECOGNIZE MPLA BUT STILL CLINGING TO HIS BASIC POSITION AND SEARCHING FOR AN ULTIMATELY PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO ANGOLA AND OTHER SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS, TOLBERT PROBABLY WANTED TO TRY TO REASON WITH TOURE. ALSO HE MAY HARBOR SOME FEAR THAT TOURE MIGHT IN THE FUTURE ALLOW GUINEA-BASED DISSIDENTS TO LAUNCH ADVENTURES AGAINST LIBERIA. HE HAD ALLUDED TO THIS POSSIBILITY IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE CHARGE ON JANUARY 21 (SEE PARA 4, MONROVIA 542, NOTAL). END COMMENT.
BEAN

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